

Minutes
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
August 22, 1978

The Parks and Recreation Board met for its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 22, 1978, at the Austin Parks and Recreation Department. Present were Mr. Garrison, Chairman; Mr. Hall, Vice Chairman; Mr. Bray, Secretary; and members Mr. Coffee, Mr. Britton, Mrs. Isely, Mr. Nall, Mr. Rose, Mr. Shaw and Ms. Stockard. Member Emeritus present was Mr. W. W. Coates, Jr. Member Emeritus absent was Mrs. Roberta Crenshaw. Staff members present were Mike Segrest, Roy Guerrero, Mickey Carter, Preston Wheeler, Dan Wilson, Randy Russell and Louise Nivison. Visitors included Mr. Charles Neuenschwander, Mr. Ken Klein, Steve Klein and Mr. Mike Kulcezk from the Austin Radio Control Association; Mr. Darryl Caparelli from the Capitol City Trap and Skeet Club; Mr. Bill Snow, Past President of the Austin Softball Association; and Mr. Bob Schrawger, from the North Austin Civic Association.

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m., by Mr. Barrett Garrison, Chairman.

Mr. Garrison asked for approval of the July 25, 1978 minutes. It was moved by Mrs. Isely and seconded by Mr. Bray that the minutes be approved as printed with a minor typographical correction. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Garrison welcomed Mr. Lawrence Britton as a newly appointed member of the Parks and Recreation Board and announced that Mrs. Mary Arnold had also been appointed.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM - SOFTBALL

Mr. Garrison asked Mr. Bill Snow, Past President of the Austin Softball Association to speak. Mr. Snow stated that he did not want the Board to think the Austin Softball Association felt the Board was not aware of or insensitive to the softball needs, but he was present to solicit their support for the continued funding of four softball fields. In 1969 he represented the association and appeared before the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Board to make them aware of the need for additional ball fields. In 1970 a plan was made to construct four field complexes in four quadrants of the city. The first complex was scheduled for the Krieg Complex located on Pleasant Valley Road. These four fields were constructed and opened for play in 1975. The next site was scheduled for the Walnut Creek area in north Austin. This area has not been developed as planned and the Austin Softball Association reconsidered the site location and recommended the Pleasant Valley site. In the 1975-1980 Capital Improvements Program \$75,000 was allocated for 1977-1978 for design and plans and \$460,000 in 1978-1979 for construction of the four lighted fields. In the proposed Capital Improvements Program for 1978-1983 the four softball fields were deleted. At present \$43,775 has been encumbered for the planning and design now in progress. He could not believe the Board had deleted the fields from the Capital Improvements Program and perhaps they were deleted somewhere else along the line. He was present to enlist the aid of the Board in getting the funds reinstated in the Capital Improvements Program. There are 15,000 persons playing softball weekly. There were 500 persons who had wanted to play softball but could not because of the

lack of facilities. There are even Sunday leagues in order to take care of the softball games. Many of the fields were playground fields and they were sub-standard and dangerous. If the construction continued on schedule it would be the spring of 1980 before the proposed fields could be used for play. If they were deleted now they probably would never be reinstated and constructed. Mr. Bray asked if they had talked with the City administration about the problem. Mr. Snow stated that they had and he believed it was now a matter of priority. The Austin Softball Association has spent a good deal of money for softball. They bought a special mower to be used in cutting ball fields to be primarily used at the Pleasant Valley site and other sites also. They have constructed fences and put in scoreboards. They were presently asking permission to construct a concession stand and broadcasting booth at the Pleasant Valley site. There was further discussion. It was moved by Mr. Bray and seconded by Mr. Rose that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend to the Mayor and City Council that the Parks and Recreation Department Capital Improvements Program be amended to reinstate funding of \$460,000 for four softball fields to be located at Krieg Softball Complex in 1978-1979. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Snow thanked the Board for their support.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT 50th ANNIVERSARY

Mr. Garrison commended Mr. Guerrero for the fine job of Master of Ceremonies for the Parks and Recreation Department's 50th Anniversary party.

RADIO CONTROL FLYING FIELD

Mr. Garrison stated the first item for action was consideration of approval of a proposed radio control flying field at Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park. Mr. Charles Neuenschwander, President of the Austin Radio Control Association, stated that at present the club did not have a safe flying field for their planes. The area designated in earlier years at Zilker Park was no longer used as there were so many other activities occurring in the same area. No funds would be required from the City. If the site was approved, all improvements would be paid for by the club. In talking with Mr. Mike Segrest, Acting Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, there was no other planned use for the area. The site was located in the northwest corner of Long Park. The club was prepared to develop the site at the earliest possible time. The area would provide a safe flyer and spectator area and sufficient insurance would be provided. Mr. Hall asked if this would be compatible with the Parks and Recreation Department plans. Mr. Segrest stated that it will be. The City cannot lease the land but an agreement could be drawn up for the use of the specific area. After further discussion, it was moved by Mr. Hall and seconded by Mr. Coffee that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend to the Mayor and City Council approval of the proposal submitted by the Austin Radio Control Association for a radio control flying field in the northwest section of Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park. The motion carried unanimously.

SKEET AND TRAP RANGE

Mr. Garrison stated the next item for action was consideration of approval of a proposed skeet and trap range at Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park. Mr. Darryl Capparelli, President of the Capitol City Trap and Skeet Club stated that they were interested in placing skeet, trap and small bore gun ranges

in the northwest section of Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park. They had been working with the State Parks and Wildlife Department and would be able to receive a grant from \$150,000 to \$200,000 to construct the facility, from the Federal government. They were not only interested in providing a skeet and trap range but also in providing gun and hunter safety programs. A lot of gun accidents could be avoided with the proper training. Mr. Coffee asked how they proposed to place a small bore gun range there. Mr. Capparelli stated that the range would be completely baffled. When completed it would be the same type range that the Department of Public Safety uses now. The area would be totally supervised. Mr. Garrison asked what the Parks and Recreation Department staff recommended. Mr. Segrest stated that when he had first started talking with the club members he had no problem with the skeet and trap range but had some reservations about the small bore gun range, however, the request was not inconsistent with parkland use. Mr. Nalle asked if the neighborhood residents had been contacted. Mr. Capparelli stated that he had talked to a representative from the LBJ Neighborhood Association and she had no problem with the project. The nearest residence was a farm house approximately one to two miles away. After further discussion, it was moved by Mr. Coffee and seconded by Mr. Bray that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend to the Mayor and City Council approval in concept of the proposal submitted by the Capitol City Trap and Skeet Club to place trap, skeet and small bore gun ranges in the northwest section of Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park, subject to approval of design and operational details by the Parks and Recreation Department staff and the Parks and Recreation Board. The motion carried with Mr. Nalle voting no.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Mr. Garrison thanked Mrs. Isely for all her work as a representative from the Parks and Recreation Board working with the Community Schools.

GOLF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

Mr. Segrest stated that the Golf Advisory Board had met about three weeks ago and had reviewed the current Capital Improvements Program for golf. After this review, the Golf Advisory Board recommended that the golf surcharge be continued, but, considering that no other recreation activity is assessed a Capital Improvement surcharge, the board requested that the City match surcharge funds with bond funds in order to allow a Capital Improvements Program that adequately addresses the needs for golf improvement. After further discussion, it was moved by Mr. Shaw and seconded by Mr. Coffee that the Parks and Recreation Board endorse the recommendations of the Golf Advisory Board concerning the use of both surcharge and bond funds to support the recommended Golf Capital Improvements Program. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Garrison stated that the annual report from the Board was due and would need to be voted on by the Board. Mr. Bray asked that the report be drafted by Mr. Garrison and placed on the agenda for September 26, 1978, for the Board to approve.

It was agreed by Board members that the Board would tour the Pleasant Valley site for the proposed softball fields and the areas proposed for a radio controlled plane field and a skeet and trap field at Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park for the tour meeting scheduled for September 11, 1978.

The following membership terms were drawn:

Mr. Lawrence Britton - term to expire June 1, 1979.

Mrs. Mary Arnold - term to expire June 1, 1980.

Mr. Segrest introduced Mr. Randy Russell, Manager of Golf recently appointed.

There was discussion concerning the Parks and Recreation Department operating budget. Mr. Rose asked if the budget could be reviewed. Mr. Segrest stated that a copy of the proposed budget could be provided. Mr. Bray and Mr. Garrison stated the operating budget was not a function of the board and could be reviewed for information only.

Mr. Garrison asked that Board members be called and reminded of the Capital Improvements Program Public Hearing set for August 31st.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.